

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/282,615

Examiner

Marissa Thein

Applicant(s)

DEAN ET AL.

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to August 20, 2003 and Examiner Amendment of November 14, 2003.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 2, 4-8, 10-14 and 16-18.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 14 March 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
    1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
  - \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
  - (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

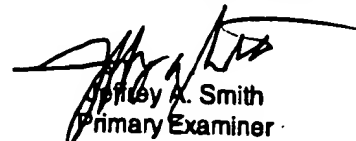
7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
  - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
    - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
  - (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                             | 5 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)          |
| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                    | 6 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____  |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. _____  | 7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment                  |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material | 8 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
|  | 9 <input type="checkbox"/> Other  |

  
Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. J.B. Kraft on November 14, 2003.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **In The Claims**

Claims 3, 9, and 15 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 7 and 13 are amended.

In claim 1, last two paragraphs:

The last two paragraphs have been changed to read as follows:

--means for providing a set of business rules for reconciling said purchasers' system needs solution with said optimized quantities; and

means for automatically offering, to selected ones of said purchasers financial incentives based upon said business rules for reconciling to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs solutions with said optimized quantities of said component based upon the seller's business needs--.

In claim 7, last paragraph:

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The last paragraph has been changed to read as follows:

-- providing a set of business rules for reconciling said purchasers' system needs solution with said optimized quantities; and

automatically offering, to selected ones of said purchasers, financial incentives based upon said business rules for reconciling to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs solutions with said optimized quantities of said components based upon the sellers' business needs --.

In claim 13, last paragraph:

The last paragraph has been changed to read as follows:

--means for providing a set of business rules for reconciling said purchasers' system needs solution with said optimized quantities; and

means for automatically offering, to selected ones of said purchasers financial incentives based upon said business rules for reconciling to thereby reconcile said purchasers' system needs solutions with said optimized quantities of said component based upon the seller's business needs--.

### **Reason For Allowance**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 1 recites a user interactive display computer system, provided by a seller of computer components to purchasers of computer systems, for configuring a computer systems including said computer components comprising: means for prompting the purchasers to make sequence of interactive data entries, the entries are

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relative to the data processing needs of the purchaser; means for applying a set of purchaser business rules to the data entries of the purchasers to produce a system needs solution; means for allocating the computer components to the computer system of the purchaser based upon the system needs solution; means for tracking quantities of the computer components; means for applying a set of seller business rules to the track quantities of each computer component to produce a set of optimized quantities of computer components; means for providing a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities; and means for automatically offering financial incentives to the purchaser based on the business rules for reconciling. Thus, the system reconciles the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities of the components based on the seller's business needs.

Henson neither anticipates or fairly and reasonable teaches a system comprising means for applying a set of seller business rules to the tracked quantities to produce a set of optimized quantities for each computer components based on the seller's business needs; means for providing a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities; and means for automatically offering financial incentives based upon the business rules for reconciling. Furthermore, Henson neither anticipates or fairly and reasonable teaches to thereby reconcile the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities of the components based upon the seller's business needs.

Brinkley et al. neither anticipates or fairly and reasonable teaches a system for configuring computer systems including the computer components comprising: means

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for providing a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities; and to thereby reconcile the purchasers' system needs solutions with the optimized quantities of the components based upon the sellers business needs.

It is observed that none of the references of record, either alone or in combination with any other reference of record teach providing a system of configuring a computer comprising the means for providing a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities to thereby reconcile the purchasers' system needs solutions with the optimized quantities of the components based upon the sellers business needs.

Claims 7 and 13 recite a method claim and a computer program claim, which parallel claim 1. Therefore, the reason of allowance of claims 7 and 13 is similar to the reason set forth in claim 1.

### ***Conclusion***

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U.S. Patent No. 5,668,995 to Bhat discloses a computer-implemented capacity planning system for multiprocessor computer systems, however, it does not disclose a

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set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities.

U.S. Patent No. 6,052,667 to Walker et al. discloses a method and system for selling aging food products at a reduced cost, however, it does not disclose a configuration of computer components comprising a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities.

European Patent Application No. 0 899 672 discloses a computer based method of collecting, structuring, and displaying product configuration information and using the product configuration information to produce a computer program that validates product option selections and configures a product. However, it does not disclose a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities configuration method.

The article "The build-to-order dilemma" discloses a method and system of custom-configuring a computer through the Internet. However, it does not disclose a set of business rules for reconciling the purchasers' system needs solution with the optimized quantities configuration method.

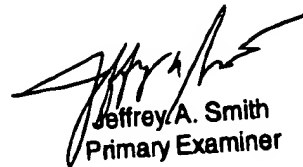
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marissa Thein whose telephone number is 703-305-5246. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Smith can be reached on 703-308-3588. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9326.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Mtot  
November 15, 2003



Jeffrey A. Smith  
Primary Examiner